

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-09

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R 070825Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5486

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 8870

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF SERGEANT MAJOR MARSUDI

1. IN JAKARTA-BANTEN MILITARY COURT JULY 6 THE PROSECUTION DEMANDED THE DEATH PENALTY FOR FORMER AIR FORCE SERGEANT MAJOR MARSUDI FOR HIS ROLE IN ABORTIVE 1965 PKI COUP. MARSUDI, A PKI MEMBER WHO TRAINED COMMUNIST CADRES AT LUBANG BUAYA PRIOR TO THE COUP ATTEMPT, ADMITTED HAVING SHOT AND KILLED GENERAL SUPRAPTO WHEN HE AND OTHERS WERE BROUGHT TO LUBANG BUAYA THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 1, 1965. ALTHOUGH ADMITTING HIS SYMPATHY WITH PKI OBJECTIVES, MARSUDI PLEADED NOT GUILTY BECAUSE HE WAS ACTING UNDER THE ORDERS OF HIS SUPERIORS. COURT WILL RESUME JULY 9 FOR DEFENSE SUMMATION.

2. TRIAL HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY IN JAKARTA PRESS DURING LAST TWO WEEKS AS WITNESSES RECOUNTED MEMORABLE EVENTS OF SEPT. 30 AND OCT. 1 CULMINATING IN KILLING OF SEVEN GENERALS. IN SPITE OF RELATIVELY LOW RANK MARSUDI WAS ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN COUP PLANS AND WAS MENTIONED BRIEFLY IN 1966 ACCOUNTS OF THESE EVENTS. STILL A MYSTERY ARE HIS WHEREABOUTS SINCE THEN AND THE GOVERNMENT'S REASONS FOR WAITING UNTIL NOW TO BRING HIM TO COURT.

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NEWSOM

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